

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1-54 (canceled)

71
55. (currently amended) A disengageable connector for vertically and horizontally interconnecting two individual flooring panels with identical edges to form a permanent or temporary laminate flooring surface on top of a support structure, [said] the connector comprising;
a base having a given width, [said] the base having a projection extending vertically from [said] the base, [said] the projection having top and bottom portions and consisting of identical right and left halves for insertion into the edges of two panels to be connected, the top portion of each half comprising identical extensions extending horizontally in opposite directions equal distances wherein the combined width of the extensions is less than the width of the base, the extensions include at least one angled portion obliquely sloped in relation to a longitudinal axis of the base, and two protrusions extending vertically from [said] the base, [said] the protrusions spaced apart from [said] the projection and being located on either side of [said] the projection beyond a lateral extent of the extensions.

56. (currently amended) The connector according to [of] claim 55, wherein [said] the connector is an elongated track.

57. (currently amended) The connector according to [of] claim 55, wherein the projection extends substantially the entire length of the connector.

71
am 4 58. (currently amended) The connector according to [of] claim 55, wherein the protrusions extend substantially the entire length of the connector.

59. (new) The connector according to claim 55, wherein the base further includes at least one recess formed between the projection and the two protrusions.

60. (new) The connector according to claim 59, wherein each of the protrusions further includes a tapered surface.

61. (new) The connector according to claim 60, wherein each of the protrusions includes tapered surfaces extending outwardly from a top portion of the protrusion.

62. (new) The connector according to claim 55, wherein each of the protrusions further includes a tapered surface.

63. (new) The connector according to claim 62, wherein each of the protrusions includes tapered surfaces extending outwardly from a top portion of the protrusion.

71
Em4
EI
Em4
64. (new) A disengageable connector for interconnecting two individual panels to form a surface on top of a support structure, comprising;

a base having a projection extending vertically from the base;

the projection having top and bottom portions and including identical right and left halves for insertion into edges of two panels to be connected, the top portion of each of the right and left halves comprising identical extensions extending horizontally in opposite directions; and

two protrusions extending vertically from the base, the protrusions spaced apart from the projection and being located on opposite sides of the projection, and each of the protrusions further includes a tapered surface.

65. (new) The connector according to claim 64, wherein each of the protrusions includes tapered surfaces extending outwardly from a top portion of the protrusion.

66. (new) A disengageable connector for interconnecting two individual panels to form a surface on top of a support structure, comprising;

a base having a projection extending vertically from the base;

the projection having top and bottom portions and including identical right and left halves for insertion into edges of two panels to be connected, the top portion of each of the right and left halves comprising identical extensions extending horizontally in opposite directions; and

two protrusions extending vertically from the base, the protrusions spaced apart from the projection and being located on opposite sides of the projection, wherein the base further includes at least one recess formed between the projection and the two protrusions.

67. (new) The connector according to claim 66, wherein the base includes first and second recesses respectively formed between the projection and the two protrusions.

68. (new) The connector according to claim 66, wherein each of the protrusions further includes a tapered surface.

69. (new) The connector according to claim 68, wherein each of the protrusions includes tapered surfaces extending outwardly from a top portion of the protrusion.

70. (new) A disengageable connector for interconnecting two individual panels to form a surface on top of a support structure, comprising;

a base having a given width, the base having a projection extending vertically from the base; the projection having top and bottom portions and including identical right and left halves for insertion into edges of two panels to be connected, the top portion of each of the right and left halves comprising identical extensions extending horizontally in opposite directions equal distances wherein the combined width of the extensions is less than the width of the base, the extensions include at least one angled portion obliquely sloped in relation to a longitudinal axis of the base; and

two protrusions extending vertically from the base, the protrusions spaced apart from the projection and being located on opposite sides of the projection beyond a lateral extent of the extensions.

71. (new) The connector according to claim 70, wherein the connector is an elongated track.

71
72. (new) The connector according to claim 70, wherein the projection extends substantially the entire length of the connector.

73. (new) The connector according to claim 70, wherein the protrusions extend substantially the entire length of the connector.

74. (new) The connector according to claim 70, wherein the base further includes at least one recess formed between the projection and the two protrusions.

75. (new) The connector according to claim 74, wherein each of the protrusions further includes a tapered surface.

76. (new) The connector according to claim 75, wherein each of the protrusions includes tapered surfaces extending outwardly from a top portion of the protrusion.

77. (new) The connector according to claim 70, wherein each of the protrusions further includes a tapered surface which decreases in height as it extends from a center of the base

78. (new) The connector according to claim 77, wherein each of the protrusions includes tapered surfaces extending outwardly from a top portion of the protrusion.